

The Tactics Of Temptation

GENESIS 3:1-6

Genesis 3:1-3

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

Genesis 3:4-6

4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

I. Temptation's Design (1-4)

Temptation Is Designed To Get Us To Doubt God's Word

- ▶ *1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"*

Temptation Is Designed To Get Us To Deny God's Word

- ▶ *2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"*
- ▶ **Leaving Out Part Of God's Word Is A Form Of Denial**
- ▶ **Adding To God's Word Is A Form Of Denial**
- ▶ **Minimizing God's Word Is A Form Of Denial**

II. Temptation's Deception (4-5)

Deception

- ▶ “Deception” and forms of the word occur 150 times in Scripture
- ▶ “Deception” = “a false impression” (Vine’s *Expository Dictionary of NT Words*)
- ▶ **2 Corinthians 11:3** But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
- ▶ **2 Corinthians 4:4** Whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them
- ▶ **John 8:44** You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

A. Deception Appeals To Our Intellect By Denying The Truth Of God's Word

- ▶ *4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.*

B. Deception Appeals To Our Pride By Denying The Sincerity Of God

- ▶ *5a For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened,*

C. Deception Appeals To Our Purpose By Denying The Uniqueness Of God

- ▶ *5b and you will be like God,*

D. Deception Appeals To Our Morality By Blurring The Distinctions Of Good And Evil

- ▶ *5c knowing good and evil.”*
- ▶ **Knowing good and evil will make them like God**
- ▶ **Adam & Eve would be capable of knowing good and evil like God does**
- ▶ **God was keeping them from being like Him**

III. Temptation's Draw (6a-c)

1 John 2:15-16

- ▶ 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

Lust Of The Flesh

- ▶ *6a So when the woman **saw** that the tree was good for **food**,*

Lust Of The Eyes

▶ *6b and that it was a **delight** to the **eyes**,*

Pride Of Life

- ▶ *6c and that the tree was to be **desired** to make one **wise**,*
- ▶ **Matthew 4** - Jesus tempted with lust of flesh (bread), lust of eyes (kingdoms of world), pride of life (cast self down with angels catching)

David & Bathsheba – 2 Samuel 11:1-5

- ▶ **Pride of Life:** We're Vulnerable To Temptation When We Stop Thinking We're Not In Spiritual Warfare (1)
- ▶ **Lust of the Eyes:** Our Eyes Turn Our Motives From God To Self-Satisfaction (2)
- ▶ **Lust Of The Flesh:** The Flesh Cries Out Over Knowledge Of The Truth (3)



Conclusion: How To Respond To Temptation

Run From Temptation

- ▶ **2 Timothy 2:22** Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Remove The Provisions Of The Flesh

- ▶ **Romans 13:14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Recoil From People Of Bad Influence

- ▶ **1 Corinthians 15:33** Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”
- ▶ **Proverbs 14:7** Go from the presence of a foolish man, When you do not perceive in him the lips of knowledge.
- ▶ **Proverbs 22:24-25** ²⁴Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go, ²⁵Lest you learn his ways And set a snare for your soul.

Register The Fact That Satan Will Constantly Attack With Temptation

- ▶ **1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Resist The Devil's Tactics

- ▶ **1 Peter 5:9** Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.
- ▶ **James 4:7-8** ⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Respond With Prayer To Avoid Temptation

- ▶ **Matthew 6:13** And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Reinforce With The Armor Of God

Attack	Aim	Armor	Assist
Dishonor	God	Holiness of God	P R A Y E R
Deception	Mind	Sword of Spirit (Bible), Helmet of Salvation	
Doubt	Will	Shield of Faith	
Discouragement	Emotion	Girdle of Truth	
Denunciation	Conscience	Shoes with the Gospel of Peace	
Destruction	Body	Breastplate of Righteousness	
Dilution	Church	Christ the Head	

Replace Your Thoughts

- ▶ **Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

Replace Your Actions

- ▶ **Matthew 5:43-44** ⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’
⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you
- ▶ **Ephesians 4:25** Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another